Oil Seeds

2565. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has effected the financial cut in the current year's budget towards production programme of breeder and foundation seeds; and

(b) if so, what steps Government is taking to sustain the development achieved in oilseeds in 1993-94 and achievements forecast in 1994-95 so that the budget estimate for breeder and foundation seeds programme is not reduced to the portions that Government may not have to go in for imports of these seeds which will ultimately defeat the achievement of self sufficiency in oil seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) There have not been any cut in the allocations made for purchage of breeders seed and production of foundation seeds during 1995-96 in comparison to 1993-94 under Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP). The funds are allocated as per the requirement under this component. This is the component of highest priority under Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP). Additional funds can also be provided if required for this component.

Expenditure on Agriculture Research Acitivites

2566. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the agricultural research activities during the Eighth Five Year Plan so far;

(b) the results, of these research activities;

(c) the institution-wise and project-wise details thereof;

(d) the future plan of Government on agricultural research activities; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Rs. 680.48 crores have been spent by ICAR on agricultural research activities during the first three years of the Eighth Plan.

(b) and (c) The result of individual ICAR Schemes are contained in the Annual Reports of the respective Institute/ Project Directorate/ NRC/Project.

A consolidated Report is placed on the floor of Parliament every year for the grant of funds.

(d) and (e) The Eighth Plan thrusts of the Council are at Statement. (*See* below) A perspective plan is under formulation which will be put to operation as and when finalised.

Statement

Priorities and Thrust Areas

To improve productivity of food, fodder, commercial and horticultural crops, animals and fisheries in a sustainable manner, the following priorities and thrust areas have been identified for the VIII Plan period (1992—97).

* Improve production potential of crops by developing varieties with multi-resistance and high productivity under low, medium, and high input conditions through the use of biotechnology and conventional technologies.
* Achieve self sufficiency in oilseed production.
* Increase productivity of horticultural crops and exploit export potential.
* Develop integrated farming system for sustainable agriculture.
* Increase biomass production for fuel, fodder and small timber through improved fodder genotypes and agroforestry systems.
* Energy management in Agriculture and exploitation of non-conventional energy sources.
* Use of embryo transfer technology for quick genetic improvement of livestock and genetic engineering to fight animal diseases.
* Improving fish production in brackish water, cold water and fresh water aquaculture systems.